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SECRET 261218Z MAY 69 CITE BANGKOK 3055

SAIGON INFO: DIRECTOR, VIENTIANE, SINGAPORE, MANILA, RANGOON, HONG KONG, TAIPEI, DJAKARTA, TOKYO, SEOUL, KUALA LUMPUR

26 MAY 69 IN 66602

REF: DIRECTOR 88114 (SENT BANGKOK ONLY)

1. WE HAVE BEEN PLAGUED FOR SOME WEEKS NOW BY MR. MITCHELL L. WERBELL III, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF R AND D OF SIONICS, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. WERBELL DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A COUNTERINSURGENCY EXPERT, HAS A VARIETY OF WEAPONS TO DISPLAY, CLAIMS TO BE A RETIRED COLONEL, AND LAST WEEK INTRODUCED HIMSELF AT A LOCAL NIGHTCLUB AS CHIEF OF WOFIRM IN THAILAND.

2. WERBELL HAS A HISTORY OF SHOWING UP IN TROUBLE SPOTS WHERE HE CAN MAKE A FAST BUCK. HE IMPLIES THAT HE IS U.S. GOVT CONNECTED AND PRESENTS A DEMONSTRATION OF A VARIETY OF EXOTIC WEAPONS THAT NEVER FAILS TO IMPRESS. REF DESCRIBES HIM AS AN UNSCRUPULOUS OPPORTUNIST WITH A REPUTATION FOR LIVING BEYOND HIS MEANS.

SECRET

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3. WERBELL IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, BORN 1919, — 8 March 1918 Phila.
SERVED IN OSS, HAS SHAVEN HEAD AND HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE. REF ADVISES THAT FULL DETAILS OF HIS BACKGROUND SHOULD NOT BE PASSED TO LIAISON 24 SINCE HE IS U.S. CITIZEN. HOWEVER, STATES THAT LIAISON 24 CAN BE INFORMED, SHOULD HE APPEAR IN YOUR AREA, THAT HE HAS AN UNSAVORY REPUTATION, HAS NO U.S. GOVT CONNECTIONS, AND ANY DEALINGS WITH HIM SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH EXTREME CAUTION.

4. FOR SAIGON: WE UNDERSTAND THAT WERBELL RECENTLY VISITED SAIGON AND DID HIS THING WITH GEN. ABRAMS, WHO WAS SUITABLY IMPRESSED, AND WERBELL IS NOW SETTING UP A SNIPER TRAINING PROGRAM.

5. FILE: 201-259910

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3/PJ